

Agricultural Department.

The Williamson Plan

Mr. McIver Williamson, of Darlington, Tells about his New Method of Growing Corn--Some Interesting Tests.

Darlington special in the News and Courier: It will be remembered that last spring Mr. E. McIver Williamson published quite a lengthy article describing his method of growing corn and the same was given wide publicity by the press generally, and by agricultural journals, especially. The plan as set forth in Mr. Williamson's article was discussed by many of the leading agriculturalists of the South, and while many thought the theory correct, there were some who did not agree that it was practical, or that it would increase the yield of corn per acre as was claimed for it by Mr. Williamson.

Mr. Williamson says that one of the chief sources of criticism seems to have arisen from the word "stunting" in describing his plan of "holding back" his corn in the first few weeks of its growth. Many have gathered from the use of the word "stunting" that Mr. Williamson intended to convey the idea that corn should be "held back," even if the plant had to be injured to do it. Such was not the intention however. Mr. Williamson said in that article, after having described how the land should be prepared and the corn planted, "Give first working with harrow or any plough that will not cover the plant. For second working, use ten or twelve-inch sweep on both sides of the corn, which should now be about eight inches high. Thin after this working. It is not necessary that the plants should be left all the same distance apart if the right number remain to each yard of row. Corn should not be worked again until the growth has been so retarded and the stalk so hardened that it will never grow too large. This is the most difficult point in the whole process. Experience and judgment are required to know just how much the stalk should be stunted, and plenty of nerve is required to hold back your corn when your neighbors, who have fertilized at planting and cultivated rapidly, have a twice the size of yours. The more the land, the more necessary is that the stunting should be thoroughly

done now that had he used the word "retard" instead of "stunt" it is probable that there would not have been as much criticism of his theory of growing corn successfully and profitably in the South.

However, after one season has passed and the reports from those who experimented with his plan are coming in, Mr. Williamson says: "I see no reason for changing the plan as outlined in the article published last spring. It has been discussed and tried, and I am satisfied with it all."

"It has been tried to my own knowledge in practically all the Southern States with good re-

sults.

"This method I have followed successfully for a number of years, both wet and dry years, that is, when there was too much rain and when there was too little rain during the season, for the best results from corn growing.

"Lest my success might be attributed to my years of experience with this method, or to any special conditions by which I am favored, I prefer that the experience of others using this method should be given. I would, however, call especial attention to the abnormal root development, where this method is followed to the small percentage of stalk as compared with the weight of the grain, and to the great value of the fertilizing material, and especially vegetable matter, which is supplied by the immense growth of pea vines where the corn is planted and 'laid by' early, and where one succeeds in obtaining small stalks, and there is good width of rows."

Mr. Williamson says that the tendency of the corn plant is to grow upward and not down into the soil. For that reason Mr. Williamson has advised deep ploughing, and the planting of the corn down about the bottom of the soil, next to the clay. He exhibited several roots of stalks that had been grown after his plan, and it is a fact that the roots were very much larger and more numerous than those usually found on corn stalks grown in this section. There was apparently from 6 to 10 inches of roots to the stalk from the point where they came out at the highest point on the stalk to the end of the root at the bottom. To secure this desirable growth on the part of the corn it is necessary to plant deep and thick, and after the corn has been retarded in its early growth, then fertilize and put the dirt to the plant.

Mr. Williamson invited the correspondent of The News and Courier to make some tests, actual tests, in order to satisfy himself that his claims were not all fanciful. Or, in other words, that they are not at all fanciful.

From a field of apparently about 25 acres or more your correspondent witnessed two men cut about 10 of the largest stalks they could find, with good ears on them. The fodder had not been pulled from these stalks, but the tops had been cut from them about August 20. They were cut from the soil at the point where they entered it. The fodder had dried up and was not visible on the part of the stalk cut for the purpose of this test. Then about twenty of the smallest stalks in the same field were gathered. The small stalks were in the same condition that the large stalks were in.

The corn on the stalks was broken from the stalks, and then the shucks were stripped from the corn. The first stalks were weighed and then the corn from them was weighed. Then the small stalks were weighed and the corn from them was weighed by your correspondent. I found by

this actual test that the large stalk test produced about 37 percent of stalk and 63 per cent of corn.

By the small stalk test I found that there was 17 per cent of stalk and 83 per cent corn.

This corn was planted in six foot rows and about twelve inches in the drill, and was standing in the field at the time of the test.

Mr. Williamson says that he used about \$8 worth of fertilizers to the acre. By actual weight this and another field of apparently the same size, will average 63 bushels to the acre. There are some acres in the crop of Mr. Williamson that will make more than 100 bushels to the acre. Some of them will make less than the average.

Mr. Williamson says that he obtains the best results from cotton seed meal, acid and kainit in the proportions prescribed in his article of last spring.

Mr. Williamson insists that this has not been a good year in this section for corn or cotton, that there has been entirely too much rain. He thinks that the idea that it takes a "wet year" to make the best corn is erroneous. That corn can stand very little more rain than can cotton.

Made Happy for Life.

Great happiness came into the home of S. C. Blair, school superintendent, at St. Albans, W. Va., when his little daughter was restored to a life of health and happiness. He says: "My little daughter had St. Vitus' Dance, which yielded to no treatment but grew steadily worse until as a last resort we tried Electric Bitters; and I rejoice to say, three bottles effected a complete cure." Quick, sure cure for nervous complaints, general debility, female weakness, impoverished blood and malaria. Guaranteed by J. F. Mackey, Co. Crawford Bros., and Funderburk Pharmacy. Price 50c.

Notice to Taxpayers.

The Treasurer's Books will be open for the collection of taxes without penalty from October 15th to December 31st, 1906.

LEVY AS FOLLOWS:

State	5 Mills
County	5 "
Special county	1 1/2 "
Constitutional school tax	3 "
Total over county	14 1/2 "
Local R. R. tax Gills Creek	5 "
" " " Cane	4 1/2 "
" " " Pleasant Hill	3 "

LOCAL SCHOOL TAXES.

District Nos. 5, 32, 46 and Jones X Roads	2 Mills
District Nos. 2 and 24	3 "
" " 12, 17, 23, 39, 49	4 "
" " 38	5 "
" " 14	5 1/2 "
" " 40	7 "

All taxable polls \$1.00.

J. E. BLACKMON,
County Treasurer.

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